



St. Anne's National School

Roll No; 19317K

Newsletter October 2020

Parents' Association

Thanks to all who supported the PA's Lotto fundraiser. The response was excellent. This is the PA's main fundraiser each year and, with the Covid restrictions that are in place, it may be one of only a very few ways of raising income. Monies raised by the PA are used to purchase additional resources for the pupils. For example, last year €9000 from PA funds were used to help purchase 70inch Promethean Touchscreen Panels for classrooms. The current Lotto runs for 10 weeks. There will be another opportunity to support it in early January.

Book Bills

Thanks to all who have paid their book bills so promptly. As well as a Book Rental Fee the Book Bill includes Personal Pupils Insurance at €8 which affords your child 24hr cover 12 months of the year. We also request €15 for art and crafts materials and €15 for photocopying. These items are much needed funds as, for example, our annual photocopying bill is in excess of €6000. The vast majority of this photocopying is comprised of worksheets for classes, pupils project work and other classroom resources. We would ask those with outstanding Book Bills to pay as soon as possible. Some parents/guardians may find it difficult to pay Book Rental Bills at the beginning of the school year for various reasons – e.g. large number of children attending school, single parent families, medical card holders, unemployment, etc. This year might be particularly challenging because of Coronavirus. If you require assistance, please contact the principal (if you haven't already done so), as a limited amount of money is made available by the Department to help in such circumstances.

Covid-19

The Board would like to inform parents that the product we are using to clean and sanitise the school is called Klorkleen. Klorkleen is a chlorine based soluble tablet produced by Wexford based company Medentech. As well as being completely safe, it is a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional bleaches and is used widely in hospitals around the world.

We would also like to point out, as you are no doubt aware, that fresh air and good ventilation are key for mitigating against the spread of the Coronavirus. To this end, windows in classrooms will have to be left opened even during winter months. Even though the heating will be on, it may be worth considering purchasing a base layer/skins/vest for your child in preparation for the colder days ahead.

Trick or Treat for Temple Street

As usual the pupils can dress up on the Friday (23rd) before the Hallowe'en Break. We are asking each child to bring €2 which will this year will be donated to Temple Street Children's Hospital.

Standardised Testing 2021

Dates for standardised testing have been set as follows; - 11th of May- Reading, 12th of May- Spelling, 18th of May- Maths. It is very important that all pupils from 1st-6th are present on these dates.

Concern Debating Competition 2020/21

The 6th class pupils have started debating in the last few weeks. The Concern Primary Debating introduces the children to some of the most important issues facing the world today. This year debating is going to be a little different. The debates will be taking place online! The first debate is against Murrintown next Tuesday, 13th October. Ms. Barry's and Ms. Ambrose's 6th classes have

been busy researching the motion 'Junk food should be banned from schools.' We wish them all the best of luck.

Green Schools News

Our 5th Green Schools Flag for biodiversity arrived this week after a 2-year effort. We will continue to promote biodiversity around the school and hope to get going on our sensory garden next spring. Due to Covid-19 our Green School Committee have been unable to meet but lots of classes are still keeping busy. 1st class planted bulbs this week. Lots of classes celebrated National Tree Day last Thursday. There were nature walks, bark/leaf rubbings and tree planting. 1st Class 2019/2020 came 3rd overall in the National Incredible Edibles competition. Their prize of a Greenhouse arrived and Nicky will put it up in our outdoor classroom for spring planting.

Teacher appointments made through the office

St. Anne's N.S. has a welcoming ethos and we are always open to concerns/information about children in our classes. However, we are also conscious of our supervisory role to all children once the bell goes at 9.20am. Therefore, we ask that if you need to speak to a teacher, requiring a lengthy conversation, you contact the school secretary Jenny in the office and an appointment can be made to meet at an agreed time. This ensures that you get our full attention and the important business of teaching and learning in the classrooms is not interrupted.

Rugby Coaching

Graham Barry from Leinster Rugby has been taking pupils from 5th and 6th for rugby coaching over the past number of Tuesdays. Pupils are really enjoying it and we have been really lucky with the weather. Big thanks to St. Anne's GAA Club for allowing us to use their facilities. Sessions will continue until midterm.

Health and Safety

Just a reminder that Rathangan NS has many pupils with serious **nut allergies** and, as such, nuts and foods containing nuts are not permitted. We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Absent Notes

Under section 21 of the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Board of Management must submit an annual attendance record with details of pupils who have been absent for **20 days** or more. A note of explanation is required if your child has been absent. This can be given to the teacher on their return to school or can be forwarded on **Aladdin Connect**. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Dates for your diary

- Friday 23rd of October- school closes for Hallowe'en Break at **3pm** as normal
- **Friday 20th** of November- school closes for all pupils @ **1pm** to facilitate teacher **in-service**
- Tuesday 22nd of December- School closes for Christmas Holidays @ 1pm